

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07589 041025Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 040815Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8483
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7589

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AD, UR, US
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S FLIRTATION WITH SOVIETS

REF: A. KABUL 6240; B. ISLAMABAD 7508; C. MOSCOW 18017

1. REFTELS GIVE INTERESTING AND DISCOURAGING PICTURE OF SOVIET AND AFGHAN RESPONSES TO PAKISTAN'S RECENT EFFORTS TO USE BETTER RELATIONS WITH SOVS AS MODERATING INFLUENCE ON AFGHANS.
2. AFTER PAK DELEGATION'S RECENT MOSCOW VISIT PAK MFA FONSEC SEEMED SOMEWHAT HOPEFUL THAT SOVIET ATTITUDE MIGHT BE ONE OF MODERATING AFGHAN HOSTILITY TOWARD PAKISTAN. SOVS APPARENTLY SAID THAT PAKS SHOULD NOT WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT AFGHAN PUBLIC RHETORIC, AND ALSO SUGGESTED THAT BEST WAY FOR PAKS TO DEAL WITH AFGHANISTAN WOULD BE THROUGH MOSCOW.
3. NOW PAKS MUST BE MULLING OVER THE IMPORT OF EVENTS OF LAST FEW DAYS: (1) AFGHAN ACCUSATIONS TO AMB DUBS CONCERNING ALLEGED HOSTILE ACTIVITIES OF PAKS, AND (2)

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MOSCOW'S DISTINCTLY UNHELPFUL PUBLIC BLAST AGAINST ALLEGED USG INSTIGATION OF PAK HOSTILITY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN. BELIEVE PAKS MUST BE CONCERNED THAT SOVS, FAR FROM PLAYING CLAMING ROLE ARE ACTIVELY FUELING FIRES OF AFGHAN HOSTILITY , AND ARE GIVING PUBLIC SUPPORT TO BASELESS AFGHAN ALLEGATIONS OF PAK INTERFERENCE.

4. ON OTHER HAND, PAKS MAY STILL DRAW SOME COMFORT FROM WHAT THEY SEE AS "TWO-TRACK" AFGHAN POLICY IN WHICH PUBLIC HOSTILITY "FOR THE RECORD" IS COUNTERBALANCED BY PRIVATE AFGHAN (AND ALSO SOV) MOVES TOWARD OPENING A CONTRCUTIVE DIALOGUE I.E., TARAKI'S AGREEMENT TO VISIT PAKISTAN, AND AFGHAN AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE PAK MINISTER OF COMMERCE.

5. PAKS WILL HAVE TO EVOLVE THIER OWN JUDGMENTS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE EMERGES, AND WE BELIEVE THEY CAN BE COUNTED ON TO TAKE REALISTIC RATHER THAN ROMANTIC VIEW OF SOV/AFGHAN INTENTIONS. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PROBE GENTLY IN ISLAMABAD ABOUT PAK VIEWS, BUT AT THE MOMENT WE DO NOT HAVE PARTICULARLY GOOD LOCUS STANDI FOR PUSHING ANY USG INTERPRETATIONS, AND ALSO DEPARTURE FOR NY OF MINSTATE AGHA SHAI DEPRIVES US OF ONE AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETER OF PAK POLICY THINKING. DEPT SHOULD MAKE EFFORT TO HAVE DISCUSSION WITH SHAHI SOON.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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